

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 140, H.D. 1

March 3, 2015
1:30 P.M.

RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR
CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU

House Bill No. 140, H.D. 1, authorizes the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRB) to assist Chaminade University of Honolulu to finance and refinance the planning, acquisition, construction, improvement, and equipping of its educational facilities pursuant to Part VIII, Chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department would like to advise the Legislature and prospective SPRB parties that should the legislation be approved, approval of SPRB issuance will require further discussion and satisfactory credit underwriting review of the financing components with respect to any proposed financing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**GAY LESBIAN
BISEXUAL AND
TRANSGENDER
CAUCUS**



**DEMOCRATIC
PARTY OF
HAWAII**

March 1, 2015

House's Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, RM 308
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION House Bill 140 HD 1 – RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF
SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and fellow Committee Members,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to House Bill 140 HD 1 on behalf of the GLBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. We are in strong opposition because we here at the GLBT Caucus believe taxpayer funded special purpose revenue bonds should go to public schools and not to private schools.

Chaminade University, according to their own website is a private university and

“Chaminade University, the only Catholic university in Hawaii....”
<http://www.chaminade.edu/about/>

We believe that this bill is in direct violation of the US Constitution's requirement of the separation of State and Church. It is also direct violation of the Hawaii State Constitution, which bars any taxpayer funds to be used for non-public schools. The voters just voted down a Hawaii State Constitutional Amendment that could have allowed this bill back in November 2014 by over 32,000 votes.

If this body wants to issue special purpose revenue bonds then do so for our public schools that are in desperate need of repairs, upgrades and modern technology.

So please do the right thing and please vote this bill down!

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

Representative Sylvia Luke
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2015

RE: Testimony in Support HB 140, HD1, Relating to the Issuance of Chaminade University of Honolulu's Special Purpose Revenue Bond

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Chaminade University of Honolulu (Chaminade) offers its students an education in a collaborative learning environment that prepares them for life, service and successful careers.

We are submitting this written testimony in favor of HB 140, HD1 to enable Chaminade University of Honolulu (Chaminade) to secure Special Purpose Revenue bonds for up to \$25,000,000 to continue to provide thousands of students each year with a rich educational experience.

The Special Purpose Revenue bonds will enable Chaminade to:

- Renovate its aging facilities;
- Expand and enhance facilities to attract new students;
- Bolster financial strength through refinancing;
- Construct and renovate athletics facilities and classrooms as well as faculty and administrative offices;
- Conduct structural maintenance of the campus and its buildings including the residence halls and external infrastructure and landscaping and;
- Stimulate construction job growth.

Over the past few years we have seen a growth in our enrollment which has now increased to over 2,500 students. In addition, nearly 97% of our under graduate students receive financial aid or scholarship funds and 50% of our students are the first in their family to attend a university. Chaminade is also honored to serve a key role in our state as a Native Hawaiian Serving and Access Institution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 140, HD1.

Sincerely,
Brother Bernard Ploeger, SM, Ph.D.
President, Chaminade University of Honolulu
3140 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Phone: (808) 739-8383 x 8383

Sharon Coburn 798 Hoomaemae St.

Pearl City, HI 96782

808-561-7102 sharon.s.coburn@gmail.com

I oppose this bill based on the fact that it contains false statements:

"09 for the purpose of assisting Chaminade

10 University of Honolulu, a not-for-profit private sectarian

11 university that serves the general public,

The website for Chaminade contains this information:

"Chaminade University, the only Catholic university in Hawaii, provides a rich educational experience. Chaminade is a place where people grow: professionally, intellectually and spiritually."

It is not appropriate for the State of Hawaii to lend support to religious schools. I believe that if this bill is passed, it will not survive a constitutional challenge.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2015 11:58 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mochizuki@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB140 on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM

HB140

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marsha Mochizuki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I urge you to reject HB140. The State of Hawaii should not be funding private, religious schools; I prefer my tax dollars to be spent on improving the University of Hawaii system.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 10:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mikegolojuch808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB140 on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM

HB140

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill to authorize the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to Chaminade University of Honolulu. I've known faculty and students at Chaminade and believe it is a good institution, however, it is a religious school and even special purpose revenue bonds should not be provide through public means. They should do it through their church.

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